
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE INSTITUTION
FOR THE
INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND,
OF THE STATE OF OHIO.
1840.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

Trustees,

JAMES HOGE,
N. H. SWAYNE,
JOHN A. BRYAN.

Superintendent,

WILLIAM CHAPIN,

First Teacher.

A. W. PENNIMAN.

Teachers of Music.

WILLIAM H. CHURCHMAN,
GUSTAVUS MACHOLD.

Mechanical Instructor,

HENRY HAWENSTEIN,

Matron,

Mrs. SUSAN M. VANDEMAN.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

THE Trustees have the satisfaction of being able to report the continued and increasing prosperity of the institution placed under their direction. It is flourishing in all its interests, and successful in all its operations. Under the direction of its able and faithful superintendent, and the persevering and well directed efforts of the teachers employed, it affords the advantages of a well digested system of instruction to the blind, which will prepare them for future life, with a fair prospect of usefulness and enjoyment to themselves and others, from which they must otherwise have been totally precluded.

Mr. William Chapin has been appointed Superintendent, as was intimated in our last report, and entered on his duties in May last. He has given entire satisfaction, and is zealously employed in his department of government and instruction, so as to give system and energy to all parts of the plan. For a particular account of the school, its pupils, teachers, literary improvement and mechanical operations, we refer to his report to us, which is herewith submitted, and we desire it to be considered as a part of our report to the General Assembly.

The present number of pupils, it will be seen in the list herewith submitted, is thirty six. As a less number has been received in every previous year, than was allowed by law, as state pupils, that deficiency has been supplied, in part, by an excess of admissions this year, particularly on account of a number of urgent, and, as we suppose, meritorious applications in behalf of those who are already older than the law prescribes, or will pass this age before the commencement of another term. The state pupils are thirty five, and the whole number might, according to the act to establish the institution, now be forty eight; so that there are still thirteen less than the full number. We hope the construction which we have given to the act, in this respect, will meet with entire approbation.

It is proper to advert particularly to a particular class of cases, to which we have just alluded, consisting of those who are over age. Six have been conditionally admitted as pupils, with a promise of allowing them to continue for a less time than is prescribed as the whole term of residence and instruction, at the

expense of the state. The condition of their continuance, which we have distinctly stated to them, is the approbation of the General Assembly. Their object is the acquisition of the rudiments of an education, so that they may be able to read, at least, and the knowledge of some trade or business, by which they may be qualified to make a living. They have all been in the institution between two and three months, and are making good progress, and are rather an honor and advantage to the school, and not any detriment. We, therefore, earnestly recommend, that a resolution be adopted, authorizing the trustees to continue these persons in the institution for a limited time, and to receive others in similar circumstances, during the next three years, provided, that the whole number of pupils, supported by the state, shall not thereby be made greater than is authorized by law. The names of these persons are, William Gotshall, of Knox county; Ann Jane Braydon, of Jefferson; William L. Carter, of Trumbull; Ruth P. Edwards, of Cuyahoga; Sarah Siegfried, of Delaware; Jane Munell, of Belmont; and application has been made for Miss Weeks, of Cincinnati, and a young man of Dayton.

The building, which was erected two years ago, is yet unfinished, and but partly furnished. It has been so far completed and supplied with plain, cheap furniture, that it has been occupied for more than a year. On many accounts, it is desirable that it should now be finished in a neat and economical style, and that it should, in like manner, be supplied with suitable furniture; so that it may present, externally, that appearance which will not be dishonorable to the liberality of the state, and may be prepared for the reception of an additional number of pupils, in October next. It is probable, that an appropriation, not exceeding three thousand dollars, will be sufficient for this purpose, and to purchase one or two piano fortes, which, the superintendent, in his report, represents as much needed.

Some additional and unexpected expense has accrued, in consequence of the failure of the apparatus for warming the house, to answer the purpose. It has been found necessary to lay aside the furnaces which had been procured, and to adopt one of a different construction, and likewise to convey the heated air to the different apartments by iron pipes, instead of flues in the walls, at an expense of about six hundred dollars. This latter plan has now been in operation for two months, and succeeds well.

In consequence of the appropriation of a less sum, by the General Assembly, last year, by two thousand dollars, than the trustees then recommended as necessary to pay existing debts and meet the current expenses of the year, the trustees have been cramped in their operations, and their treasury is still considera-

bly in debt. To meet this deficiency, and to carry on the institution, in all its departments, an appropriation of three thousand dollars is deemed necessary. After this year, it is hoped that little or no money will be needed from the state treasury, on account of the building, for some time, at least; and a smaller appropriation for current expenses, in proportion to the number of pupils.

By the report of the treasurer, herewith submitted, it will be seen, that the receipts and expenditures have been as follows:

Amount received during the year,	\$11,867 52
Payments made, on sundry accounts,	11,872 44
Balance due, - -	4 92

It is the opinion of the superintendent, that the erection of a workshop, separate from the main building, would be useful, as will be seen, by a reference to his report. If this should be determined, it will require an expenditure of about five hundred dollars.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES HOGE,
N. H. SWAYNE,
Trustees of Ohio Inst. for the Blind.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

*To the Trustees of the
Ohio Institution for the Instruction of the Blind:*

GENTLEMEN: I am happy to state, that our institution is in a prosperous condition, and continues to realize the benevolent object of the Legislature, in the moral and mental improvement of the Blind, committed to our care.

It is about three years and a half only, since a small class of these pupils were collected for instruction, and but little more than a year, since they have occupied a building suitable for their accommodation.

At the date of the last report, there were nineteen pupils; since which, one has died, one has not yet returned, and nineteen new pupils have been received; making the present number thirty six. A portion of this increase is the result of a tour, which was made, under your direction, with four of the pupils, during the past vacation. We traveled nearly 600 miles, in the northern and eastern sections of the state, and gave public exhibitions in the principal towns on the route. These exhibitions attracted very large audiences, who manifested, every where, the highest gratification, at the attainments of the pupils, in their music and other exercises. More decided testimonies of approbation, on the part of many thousands of our citizens, in favor of the institution, and the liberality of the Legislature in its support, could not have been given.

It has been found extremely difficult, in many cases, to prevail upon the blind to leave their homes, and partake of the advantages here offered. This proceeds chiefly from the mistaken kindness of their parents, who are reluctant to commit them to the care of others. It has also resulted, in part, from ignorance of the capacity of the blind to receive instruction. These difficulties have been extensively removed by our recent tour and exhibitions, which proved how little was really known of the character and advantages of this institution. These considerations suggest the expediency of continuing such tours annually, at least for a few years to come, as the best means of increasing our numbers to the extent contemplated by the Legislature.

I would mention, among other tokens of kindness of the people of the towns we visited, their contributions for the purchase of instruments for a Brass Band. Our pupils are much interested in this additional source of enjoyment, and have already made encouraging progress in the performance of several pieces.

Mr. A. W. Penniman continues to discharge his duties, as principal teacher, with ability and faithfulness. Whatever proficiency the pupils have made, is due, chiefly, to his persevering attentions and experience in the instruction of the blind.

Mr. W. H. Churchman, teacher of vocal music, and, at present, of the piano, has been successful in imparting to the pupils a knowledge of the elements of music, and in improving their taste and execution in this, to the blind, important and interesting science. Mr. C., it is due to remark, is entirely blind, and was a late pupil of the Pennsylvania institution.

Mr. A. Machold has given entire satisfaction, as a teacher of instrumental music. His services are, at present, confined to the pupils on the brass band, in which difficult task he has exhibited commendable skill and perseverance.

Our late matron, Mrs. Sloane, has been obliged to leave, on account of ill health. Her faithful labors and attention, in the care of the female pupils, call for an expression of regret at her loss, at this time. Her place has been supplied, temporarily, by a lady of suitable qualifications.

Our course of instruction embraces spelling, with definitions; reading, writing, geography, including maps and statistics; grammar, arithmetic, mental and on the slate frames; lectures on natural and moral philosophy, and other subjects of useful knowledge; and reading to the pupils, in history, biography, miscellaneous literature, modern discoveries, news of the day, &c., &c.

ORDER OF EXERCISES IN WINTER.

Rise at 6. From 6½ to 7½, a lesson in geography, and grammar, three times a week, alternately. Breakfast, and recess till 9. From 9 to 10—lecture, and spelling, with critical definitions, three times a week; on alternate days, arithmetic, mental and on slates. From 10½ to 11½—singing in choir, by all the pupils. From 11½ to 1—reading the raised letters and writing. Dinner and recess, until 2. The afternoon is devoted to work; the boys, in the shops, at their trades; the girls, under the care of the matron, making various fancy articles, sewing, braiding, &c. There is also a familiar lecture, or reading lesson, one hour, every afternoon, for the females, who take their work with them, and such pupils as are not otherwise engaged. From 7 to 8, P. M.—a

music lesson and reading history, alternately. At 9, P. M., the younger pupils go to rest, and at 10, all are expected to retire.

These exercises are varied in summer, by rising one hour earlier in the morning, and by having lectures, arithmetic and grammar lessons daily. It is proposed, in the course of the term, to add algebra and geometry.

Morning and evening prayers are attended to, immediately after breakfast and tea.

During the day, a number of the pupils receive lessons and practice upon the piano.

Great pains are used to give the pupils a thorough understanding of these branches; and, it is believed, they are as much advanced as ordinary seeing children, with the same advantages. It is hoped that they will exhibit, at the end of the allotted term of five years, the usual proficiency of scholars in our well regulated academies.

With few exceptions, the blind are anxious to receive instruction. Shut out from ordinary objects of attraction, the lights of science and knowledge open upon their minds new sources of happiness. They are equally surprised and delighted to find they have capacities for education equal to others. The influence of instruction and kind and affectionate treatment, is soon visible in their cheerful deportment and faithful attention to their studies. Some, who, only a few months since, were mourning their hapless condition, are now contented and happy. A new and bright existence seems to have dawned upon their minds.

A female pupil, who, until recently, regarded life as a burden, has, in a few weeks, learned to read tolerably well in the New Testament, and to write a legible hand. In a letter to her mother, in her own hand, she says, "I am now happy and contented. I can read in the New Testament, and understand something of geography, music and arithmetic. I once thought life had no enjoyment for me. I do not now feel so dependant on others."

Another female pupil, who has been under instruction but a little over four months, and learning to write, about six weeks only, thus writes to one of her teachers, in a legible hand: "My heart is filled with gratitude, when I reflect on your kindness to me and my fellow sufferers. But I despair of communicating to you my real sentiments, for my heart is more grateful than words can express. I dare not reflect on the day which will separate me from the institution, for every day brings increasing delight; and I shall look back on the time spent here, as the happiest of my life; for here I have been taught to read the word of God. As this is my first letter, you will please pardon my mistakes."

A few weeks since, she had no idea of the shape of a written mark.

Another pupil, with a few weeks instruction, thus dedicates her first attempt at letter writing:

"My dear mother:—I now attempt to write to you. It is my first letter, and you most deserve it. Perhaps you will be pleased to see my own hand-writing. I am very happy here, and never regretted coming, except at parting with you. My love to all that inquire after blind Mary."

Another pupil, a lad aged 12, being told that some one doubted that the blind were capable of instruction, writes: "The doubts about educating the blind are very foolish. Why may we not as well receive instruction by the ear and the touch, as others by the eye? How many blind persons have become eminent in learning and science."

These simple specimens, while they indicate the facility with which the blind may be instructed, breathe a language of unaffected contentment, which may teach the parents of the blind who are still retained at home, that they would best consult their happiness and welfare, by sending them to the institution, to be educated.

Books for the blind are necessarily limited in number, and somewhat expensive. Some of our pupils, in their restless desire of improvement, are constantly inquiring for more books; and whenever any volumes arrive, the first eager inquiry of a dozen voices is, "are they in *our print*?" On this account, it is to be regretted that we have not a uniform print for the blind. The different characters now employ two presses; one at the institution at Boston, the other at Philadelphia; whereas, one press would be sufficient, with a uniform letter, to do double the work, with about the same expense.

Every attention is paid to the moral improvement of the pupils. Our government is based upon Christian principles. The constant aim is to plant in the heart of every pupil a love of virtue, as the highest motive to do right. And we have every encouragement to believe there is a gradual improvement in the morals and affections of the pupils. They are taught to be kind and affectionate, and to regard each other as members of one family, united by a common object, and by a bond of sympathy in one common privation.

They have the full enjoyment of religious privileges, on the sabbath, and choose their own places of worship, to which they are regularly taken, without the slightest restraint. When the weather is unpleasant, appropriate religious services are held in the institution, carefully avoiding every thing of a sectarian char-

acter. These privileges are highly valued, and attended to with becoming seriousness.

The pupils take their meals at the same time, and partake of the same kind of food, as the teachers and family of the superintendent.

The mechanic department, which may, perhaps, be regarded as more important than any other, for the substantial welfare of the blind, bids fair to realize our best hopes. We have recently engaged the services of Mr. H. Hawenstein, of the Philadelphia institution, a skillful and experienced teacher of several of the branches usually taught to the blind. To the trades already commenced here, shoe-making and brush-making, we propose to add the manufacture of baskets and door mats, and weaving list and rag carpets. Experience, in other institutions, as well as our own, teaches that shoe-making is not the best branch, in most cases, for the blind. It will, therefore, be confined to those who have a decided preference for it. Several of our pupils have, however, turned out very creditable specimens of this work. They have also been very expert in the manufacture of brushes, and will soon be able, when all the proper tools are received, to compete successfully with seeing mechanics.

Basket-making has been found to be a good business for the blind. It will be introduced as soon as the willow can be procured. This is the principal branch followed in the New York institution, and is found to be profitable. From specimens of the finer manufactures of various fabrics, by the pupils of the institutions at Boston, New York and Philadelphia, there is abundant evidence of the ingenuity of the blind, and their ability to execute very beautiful and difficult work. But it is undoubtedly the best policy of this institution, to confine its pupils to the manufacture of articles in common use, which find a ready market, require the least waste of raw material, and the least outlay of capital.

In justice to the pupils, I am happy to state, that they all feel a laudable ambition to acquire the means of support by their own industry. They look upon a life of hopeless dependence, as a misfortune even greater than blindness. They ask, that the means may be placed in their hands, by which they can take their station among their fellow beings. This noble feeling we delight to cherish. It is an appeal to the most honorable sympathies of our nature, and will not be overlooked.

When our pupils shall become advanced in their several branches, we have reason to believe the proceeds of their work will nearly or quite repay the expenses of the workshop, including the salary of their teacher.

While I feel indisposed to make any suggestions tending to in-

crease, unnecessarily, the expenses of the institution, I cannot omit to refer for your consideration, the early erection of a suitable workshop. The recent increase of our numbers has already rendered the present shop too small, and will require the use of another room in the basement of the building, and a separation of some of the pupils from the immediate and constant presence of their teacher. This necessity, of course, will be greater, as the pupils continue to increase.

Much inconvenience is occasionally felt, from the difficulty of providing comfortable clothing for some of the indigent pupils. In some cases they are entirely neglected by their parents, or guardians. This extremity falls upon those who have their immediate care. In some of the eastern institutions, a moderate provision is made for the clothing of indigent pupils. Whether a small sum to be applied contingently, or other provision may be made for such cases, is respectfully submitted.

Of the pupils returned in this report, several, lately received, are over 21, the age limited by law, and their reception depends upon the action of the legislature. They all come well recommended, and their moral and correct deportment, and capacity to receive instruction, entitle them to a favorable consideration. Some of them have already learned to read, and give as much promise as an average number of younger pupils. The infancy of our institution, and the want of information of its restrictions in respect to age, are, it is believed, strong reasons why, in certain instances, exceptions should be made in favor of those, who, in every other respect, present the strongest claims to our sympathies. It is believed a discretionary power, vested in the trustees for a few years to come, to receive a limited number of such pupils, might be beneficially exercised.

Our new building is in most respects convenient, and well adapted for the purpose. The painting of the outside, and parts of the interior, remain to be finished; and are required, as much, perhaps, on the score of economy as beauty. The exhibition room is yet to be furnished with seats, and some additional plain furniture is necessary. The surrounding grounds are in a rough, unfinished state, and need grading and improving by shade trees.

The institution owns but one piano, and is at present dependent upon the temporary use of one belonging to the teacher of vocal music. Our music instruction on the piano, has heretofore suffered for want of more instruments, and in this respect we cannot compare favorably with other similar institutions.

We are also greatly in need of an organ. If we propose to furnish any of our pupils an opportunity of making music a profession, an organ will be almost indispensable. The citizens of Cincinnati have already made a generous effort to procure one.

This benevolence is still active, and we are invited to visit that city again with the pupils, to give a public exhibition, with a view to some further effort towards that object.

Our acknowledgments are due to the N. Y. Institution, for the favor of a donation of some beautiful specimens of basket-work, rugs and Manilla mats, the work of their pupils, which we daily exhibit to visitors.

Our thanks are due also to the American Tract Society, for a donation of a library of 45 volumes, and also to the Sabbath School Union, for some of their publications, the reading of which gives another source of consolation to our pupils, for which they are very grateful.

I cannot close this communication without remarking that our institution, as organized, is fully prepared to receive an additional number of pupils, with but a trifling increase in the expense of instruction ; and that its benevolent objects might be extended, by the reception from the adjacent states, of a limited number of pupils, in the same manner as those sent to the Pennsylvania Institution by Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. While such an act of benevolence would require but a moderate expense on the part of our sister states, it would increase the interest of our own institution, and enlarge its sphere of usefulness to this interesting class of our fellow beings.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM CHAPIN.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS.

Names.	When admitted.	Residence.	By whom supported	Cause of blindness.
George Miller,	June 10, 1837,	Ross county,	The state,	Measles.
Mary Ann Drogman,	" " "	Medina	"	Congenital.
Aaron Rose,	July 4, "	Delaware	"	Inflammation.
Lucinda M. Shaw,	" " "	Pickaway	"	Congenital.
Horace D. Collins,	July 19, "	Ross	His father,	"
Robert M'Crea,	August 7, "	Franklin	The state,	Scarlet fever.
Laura A. Beal,	August 26, "	Champaign	"	Accident.
James H. M'Combs,	September 16, 1837,	Trumbull	"	Congenital.
Richard Dawson,	November 22, "	Franklin	"	Rheumatism.
Henry Bonta,	May 30, 1838,	Montgomery	"	Sickness.
Isaiah Rock,	September 15, "	Pickaway	"	Measles.
Mary A. Bergundthal,	September 28, "	Monroe	"	Unknown.
Ellen Boston,	October 5, "	Delaware	"	Congenital.
Jabez Freet,	November 8, "	Columbiana	"	Cataract.
Frederick Moorhead,	July 12, 1839,	Muskingum	"	Accident.
Enoch T. Malinee,	October 17, "	Hamilton	"	Measles.
Frederick Bly,	November 6, "	Lorain	"	Congenital.
James Henry M'Vay,	"	Hamilton	"	"
Maria Butterfield,	June, 1840,	Union	"	Whooping cough.
Samuel F. Adair,	June, "	Guernsey	"	Cataract.
L. Sterling Newell,	June, "	Hancock	"	Whooping cough.
Jane Munell,	September 26, "	Belmont	"	Congenital.
Lovinia Booth,	October 1, "	Trumbull	"	Inflammation.
Samuel Bacon,	" " "	"	"	Scarlet fever.
William Gotshall,	" " "	Knox	"	Accident.
Samuel Baker,	" 5, "	Portage	"	Congenital.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS—Continued.

Names.	When admitted.	Residence.	By whom supported	Cause of blindness.
Ann Jane Braydon,	October 7,	Jefferson county,	The state,	Accident.
Rebecca Clarkson,	" 8,	Cuyahoga "	" "	Inflammation.
Louisa Bliss,	" 11,	" "	" "	Congenital.
William L. Carter,	" 19,	Trumbull "	" "	"
Mary A. Campbell,	" 21,	Portage "	" "	Inflammation.
Ruth P. Edwards,	" 28,	Cuyahoga "	" "	"
Sarah Seigfried,	November 16,	Delaware "	" "	Accident.
Isaac Seigfried.	" "	" "	" "	"
Rollin Page,	December 24,	Huron "	" "	Congenital.